Sacramento Metro Chamber CAP-TO-CAP 2010

APRIL 17 – 21
WASHINGTON, D.C.
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WATER RESOURCES

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SALTS: A CRITICAL CONCERN FOR CALIFORNIA WATERS

Requested Action:
Recognizing the importance of salt management to the Sacramento region, the Central Valley, and California, we request that federal funds be allocated to support the CV-SALTS program. It would be appropriate to establish a Federal funding share of $2M per year over a 7 to 10 year period. The federal nexus for this contribution is based on water quality control under the responsibility of the USEPA and contribution to salt problems caused by agricultural and urban uses of Central Valley Project water.

Background:
All water supplies contain salt. Salts come in different chemical forms and from different sources, but all are difficult to remove once dissolved in the water. Plants and other life use water, but leave the salt behind in the remaining water so it becomes more concentrated as it moves through the environment. Use of water for agricultural and urban purposes results in addition of salts as well. Much of the water in California is used more than once as it moves through the environment and the salts increase with each usage.

Salts in the Sacramento region, if left unmanaged, can impair water sources, making them less suitable for drinking water, agriculture, industry, and the environment. If salinity is not managed effectively it will reduce agricultural productivity, economic development, and the quality of life in the Sacramento region.

Salts are continuing to come under more regulatory scrutiny. Salinity issues are manifesting in wastewater discharge permits, drinking water supplies, recycled water projects, and management of San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Current Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) regulations for salt are established as water quality objectives based on an outdated Sacramento-San Joaquin Basin Plan (Basin Plan) that does not holistically plan for basin wide management of salt. This outdated Basin Plan was hastily completed in the 1970's under EPA requirements and includes limited data and conservative assumptions. As a result, many cities, districts and industries are spending large amounts of money to comply, or risk violating permit standards, which can result in fines and enforcement orders.

The Regional Board is addressing salinity through a stakeholder effort known as the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-term Sustainability (CV-SALTS). CV-SALTS is a new, collaborative, stakeholder managed program to develop a salinity management plan through an amendment to the Sacramento-San

Joaquin Basin Plan. CV-SALTS is leading the science and planning needed to prepare an amendment to the Basin Plan. Funding for CV-Salts is currently coming from a combination of State Water Resources Control Board and stakeholder resources, but funding is insufficient to complete the work. The estimated cost to complete the Basin Plan amendment is $20 to $50 million, over a seven to ten year timeframe.

An Example of the Problem:

In 2009, the Regional Water Quality Control Board issued the City of Woodland a new wastewater discharge permit that contained interim salinity limits. The Regional Board has determined that the treated water leaving the City's wastewater treatment plant contains high levels of salt that originate from the potable water pumped from the City's groundwater source. The City has determined the only way they can meet the basin plan salinity limits is to construct a $250M surface water treatment plant, to deliver Sacramento River water, which contains lower salt concentrations.

The City of Davis will also be required to lower the levels of salinity discharged from its wastewater treatment plant. The cities have formed a Joint Powers Authority to construct the surface water treatment plant to serve both communities and share overall costs of construction and operation.

The Basin Plan will establish water quality standards and objectives and control programs that are specific to the San Joaquin, Sacramento, and Tulare Lake watersheds. These regional plans will need to include salt source identification, assimilative capacity of the water basin, loading estimates, fate and transport, monitoring, implementation measures to manage loading, and an anti-degradation analysis. A draft work plan for development of the Basin Plan amendment has been completed by CV-SALTS. Within the next two years a Beneficial Use and Objectives Study, Collaborative Surface and Groundwater Data Collection Project and a Limit Implementation Planning and Analysis Project will be started.

The Metro Chamber urges our elected officials to provide funding support, recognizing the federal responsibility and contribution to this problem.

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IMPACTS OF CVP OPERATIONS ON SACRAMENTO REGION WATER SUPPLIES AND AMERICAN RIVER FISHERIES

Requested Actions:
The Metro Chamber requests members of Congress direct the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and Corps of Engineers (Corps) to develop a new Central Valley Project (CVP) operations plan consisting of a comprehensive and fully developed analysis describing how it intends to operate the CVP to meet recent and anticipated regulatory changes. Recent changes include the CVP OCAP Biological Opinions (BOs) for Delta Smelt and Salmon. Anticipated changes include evolving actions for groundwater conjunctive use, the proposed lower American River Flow Standard[1], and re-operation of Folsom Reservoir.

The Metro Chamber also requests funding from Reclamation's budget to continue its collaborative participation in developing the new operating plan for the American River Division. The Water Forum and its members have made great strides in developing broadly supported operational approaches and analytical tools for implementing the BOs and the Flow Standard. This work should be supported and expanded to benefit both environmental and water supply resources.

Background:
Changes Must be Recognized and Anticipated
The regulatory framework for CVP operations has changed significantly in recent years due to legislative, judicial, and administrative actions. Recent BOs are but one example of these changes. Coming changes include ongoing planning efforts in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, current physical improvements to Folsom Dam, and recent California water legislation.

Reclamation and the Corps must recognize and anticipate these changes by developing and publishing their new operational approach. To ensure this region recovers from the recent economic downturn, we must have a reliable water supply. As a region, we have prioritized the coequal objectives of reliable water supply and a sustainable environment. Without speedy determination of the effects of recent BOs, this

[1] The California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) acknowledged the need for enhanced in-stream flows to protect public trust resources in the lower American River (LAR) in its 1990 *"Report of Referee"* in the *Environmental Defense et al. v. East Bay Municipal Utility District* case. Water Forum stakeholders and Reclamation have worked closely with resources agencies fully develop the proposed flow standard.

region does not have enough information to move forward with appropriate investments in environmental restoration, water supply infrastructure, and groundwater management. Uncertainty in these issues is counter to sound planning and implementation.

Local Co-Equal Objectives Have Yielded Best Outcomes

The lower American River is a valuable fishery resource, accounting for an estimated 20 percent of the total annual number of salmon spawning in the Central Valley, while at the same time providing a water supply for nearly two million residents. Over a decade ago, a diverse group of over 40 local business and agricultural leaders, environmentalists, water managers and local governments ended decades of conflict over management of the waters of the American River by signing the Water Forum Agreement. The Water Forum Agreement is based on two coequal objectives: to provide a safe and reliable water supply for the region and to preserve fishery, wildlife, recreational, and aesthetic values of the lower American River. The Water Forum and its members have successfully developed an approach to water supply and environmental protection that maintains both economic vitality and fishery resources.

The strength of the Water Forum Agreement lies in the stakeholders' universal acceptance of the coequal objectives, an unwavering commitment to sound science, and a collaborative interest-based approach to the resolution of issues and concerns. This approach has led to establishment of a sustainable, regional approach for managing the resources of American River. This approach includes improved water supply infrastructure, coordinated groundwater management, commitment to water conservation, and development of a proposed flow standard for the lower American River.

The new lower American River Flow Management Standard, which is intended to be incorporated into the Bureau of Reclamation's water rights as a requirement on the operation of their American River Division facilities, is essential to locking in the environmental protection objective of the Water Forum Agreement. We note and appreciate that the BOs include adoption of the Water Forum flow management standard as one of the reasonable and prudent actions (RPAs). However, as the flow standard is only one of many provisions that will affect the American River either directly or indirectly, it is unclear what the cumulative local effect of the BOs will be on Water Forum objectives.

Local Input Invaluable to CVP Operations

Implementation of the RPAs recommended in the Delta Smelt and Salmon BOs will require significant changes in the operation of the CVP. A comprehensive evaluation describing Reclamation's proposed changes in operations under the BOs would provide valuable information regarding how those changes would affect local water supply reliability and environmental resource protection goals in regions upstream of the delta.

The Water Forum has a history of working cooperatively with Reclamation and the federal fisheries agencies. The most recent example of this mutually beneficial cooperation is the development of the Iterative Coldwater Pool Management Model (iCPMM) by the Water Forum to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) specifications. This tool promises to be invaluable to NMFS and Reclamation as they strive to implement certain aspects of the BO.

The Water Forum is committed to continuing its collaborative efforts to assist Reclamation and the Corps in developing a new operating plan for the American River Division. The Water Forum is also committed to completing ongoing studies that specifically analyze the effects of implementing the American River

components of the BOs. The Water Forum, in cooperation with NMFS and Reclamation, has made progress in defining important parts of the Biological Opinions, but requires outside funding to complete this important work.

Water Forum Stakeholders Seek Elected Leadership in Expediting New Operations Plan

The people of the Sacramento region have waited several years for Reclamation to fulfill its commitment and help complete and implement the Flow Standard.[2] For the reasons stated above, the Sacramento Metro Chamber urges members of Congress to direct expeditious development of this comprehensive evaluation that analyzes the impacts of the recent Biological Opinions and delineates the effects of the mitigations on north-of-Delta water supplies and tributary biological resources. The new plan should be developed in an open process that honors the value of local knowledge and experience.

[2] In October 2004, Reclamation, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Water Forum agreed, through a Memorandum of Understanding to diligently work towards completion of a flow standard and to petition the SWRCB by 2005.

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SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CRISIS AND SOLUTIONS

Background:
The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta supports water supplies for 25 million Californians and millions of acres of California farmland and provides habitat for numerous species. The Delta has fallen into crisis as species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) have declined significantly, spurring litigation that, combined with prolonged drought, has dramatically constrained Delta water-supply diversions. Solving this crisis will be expensive, but not solving it will be devastating to California's economy. The crisis, however, has spawned demands that upstream areas like the Sacramento region contribute significant resources – both money and water – to Delta solutions, mainly because they use water that eventually flows to the Delta. New state mandates require the region to implement conservation measures that are not locally cost-effective and further proposed mandates could limit our region's water supplies and demand large new local investments in wastewater treatment. Because the ESA drives Delta issues, the federal Central Valley Project operates Delta export facilities, and California's economic health is a national issue, federal participation in developing Delta solutions is crucial.

The Sacramento Metro Chamber seeks to work collaboratively with state and federal agencies and other stakeholders to meet the environmental and water supply needs of our region, the Delta, and all of California. Solutions aimed to remedy the critical state of the Delta need to be implemented swiftly and, most importantly, in a fair and comprehensive manner. ***All aspects of a comprehensive Delta solution must move forward concurrently, however, it is imperative that we implement this comprehensive solution in a manner that does not impinge on the existing legal rights of others or redirect impacts to upstream areas.***

The Metro Chamber supports Delta solutions that are consistent with the following key principles:

<u>Commitment to Regional Self-Sufficiency Through Cooperative Management</u>
Unique among California's regions, in 2000, the major stakeholders interested in the Sacramento region's water resources – water agencies, local governments, business and agricultural groups, environmental organizations, and citizen groups – signed the Water Forum Agreement to define how the region will satisfy its projected future water demands and protect and enhance the environmental values of the lower American River. In its October 2008 Strategic Plan, the Governor's Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force emphasized increasing "regional self-sufficiency" to contribute to solving the Delta's problems. Our region's Water Forum Agreement is a model for pursuing that regional self-sufficiency objective. The

Agreement's co-equal environmental and water supply objectives preceded the comparable co-equal goals that the California Legislature has now written into law. Delta solutions must respect our region's commitment to, and investment in, the Water Forum Agreement and other regional planning efforts.

To allow our region to continue to be self-sufficient, any federal legislation and agency actions that embody such solutions must respect our region's senior water rights and California's area-of-origin laws that govern the Central Valley Project (CVP) and the State Water Project (SWP) by:

- Not using Folsom Reservoir as the water source of first resort for addressing Delta ecosystem problems – just because it is the CVP reservoir closest to the Delta – and consequently imposing disproportionate water-supply reductions on our region;

- Giving high priority to maintaining water levels in Folsom Reservoir to support supplies for water providers in the Sacramento region that divert directly from the reservoir. In 2008, Folsom water levels nearly declined to a point where local supplies would be severely impacted;

- Implementing allocations that recognize that, unlike many regions, our region's local water resources are largely sufficient to meet regional demands and often are reused within the region, in the environment, or by the CVP's and the SWP's Delta-export facilities; and

- Implementing the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (P.L. 102-575, title 34, § 3405) to allow CVP contractors in our region to respond to drought conditions by transferring water among themselves according to the supplies stated in their CVP contracts.

Good Science and Good Policy Must Support Delta Solutions

Implementation of a Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) that would provide ESA coverage for the operations of the CVP and SWP may be the right solution for the Delta's pressing problems because it would address the acute conflict between the ESA's protection of Delta fish species and the water supplies for the areas of California that rely on exports from the Delta. A BDCP that redirects environmental or economic impacts from such areas to the Sacramento region, however, would only inflame disputes over California's water, not resolve them. Accordingly, federal agencies' negotiation and implementation of any BDCP must not result in the Sacramento region being required to subsidize the water supplies of other regions of the state by demanding water or money from the region out of proportion to any contribution by the region to the Delta's problems.

Any component of a comprehensive Delta solution must fully mitigate its socio-economic impact to the Sacramento region. Proposed solutions may impact land use in and around the Delta, thereby reducing economic potential. Solutions have the potential to create more stringent requirements for wastewater discharges, at considerable expense to the region, or to impact the region's water supplies. Such impacts should be avoided or fully mitigated. Solutions should not redirect impact to parties that are disproportionate to the parties' contribution to the problems facing the Delta. Any Delta solution must:

- Avoid or fully mitigate economic impacts that Delta ecosystem improvements may have on the Sacramento region's agricultural community.

- Require "fair share" contributions from beneficiaries. Financing for improvements must have a strong nexus between funds provided and direct benefits received.

Decisions concerning BDCP or other Delta solutions must be based on sound science that identifies the causes of the Delta's problems. Proposed solutions should be based on a foundation of credible technical study such that proposed solutions address the causes of the Delta's problems and are likely to work. Decisions that do not reflect this principle present a serious risk that they would fail to address the root problems.

The Delta's problems involve many factors and the complex interactions among them. This complexity leads some to assume that any Delta solution must demand significantly more resources – either water or money – from those upstream of the Delta. The Delta itself, however, has been radically altered from the natural estuary in which the native species whose declines have precipitated the current crisis evolved. For example, current Delta pumping operations reverse natural water flow directions in some Delta channels and, according to the Governor's Delta Vision Task Force, "almost 200 non-native species exist in the Delta representing at least 95 percent of the biomass." Any Delta solution must be based on good science to address the causes of the Delta's problems and to demonstrate that the solution is likely to work. Federal action can promote real solutions to the Delta's problems and avoid redirecting disproportionate impacts by:

- Committing to active and effective federal participation in developing and implementing any Delta solution;

- Ensuring that the National Academy of Sciences' review of the biological opinions that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service recently issued under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for Delta-dependent species maintain a focus on the reasonable and prudent alternatives (RPAs) that address the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP) actions. Per the ESA the RPAs must be actions within the authority of the agencies responsible for the CVP and SWP, and caution is needed to prevent the review from placing unwarranted demands and impacts on the Sacramento region;

- Requiring jurisdictional federal agencies to address in-Delta factors like invasive species that have received much less agency attention than stream flows and upstream discharges of treated wastewater, and

- Raising the national profile of the Delta to a status similar to the Great Lakes, Everglades, and Chesapeake Bay.

Implementation of a Comprehensive Solution

We encourage increased investment in surface and groundwater storage, conjunctive use, water recycling, desalination, and improvements in water conservation. California's water crisis will not be solved by any single measure. A diversified portfolio, structured with an understanding of the differences between our state's diverse regional hydrologic conditions, must be created.

- In northern California, additional investment in surface and groundwater storage and water recycling is needed to provide for water supply reliability and desired environmental flows, especially as the state grows.

- We oppose any one-size-fits-all approach to water conservation that does not recognize the important differences between water uses that return water to the Delta or its tributaries and those that irretrievably convey water to other regions of the state.

- We believe that an improved Delta conveyance system is necessary to improve species conservation and water supply reliability, and is a necessary component of a comprehensive Delta solution. We support new infrastructure to improve Delta conveyance ***if and only if*** the above principles are adopted as part of a comprehensive Delta solution.

We look forward to continued engagement with all parties on this issue, and we are eager to assist in the crafting of policy statements and plans that ensure a comprehensive Delta solution is achieved.

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GROUNDWATER PLANNING AND CONTAMINATION ISSUES

Requested Actions:
The Sacramento Groundwater Authority and Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority request active participation of Department of Defense and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on studies and risk assessments currently underway related to groundwater contamination problems and their potential water supply implications and $2.0 million from fiscal year 2010 funds to conduct follow up studies and monitoring. Requested actions include:

- Participation of DOD agencies and EPA on current modeling studies to ensure scenarios and results have broad recognition and technical support;
- Funding to conduct the next modeling steps, evaluating scenarios to optimize coordination of water supply pumping and remedial actions in the groundwater basin, thereby reducing cleanup time, lowering overall costs, and better protecting water supplies;
- Funding for additional monitoring wells as an "early warning" system for water supply wells, based on results of current study;
- Funding to study opportunities to put remediated groundwater to beneficial uses in the region; and
- Funding for demonstration projects to implement the most promising opportunities for reuse of remediated water.

Background:
Groundwater supplies nearly half of the water used in the Sacramento region. To meet regional objectives of ensuring environmental protection for the lower American River while providing reliable water supplies to a growing population, a broad group of environmental groups, business interests and water providers in the region committed to a coordinated, regional plan to conjunctively use surface and groundwater through the year 2030. This commitment is memorialized in the Sacramento Water Forum Agreement, signed by 40 signatories in April of 2000. The plan maximizes the use of surface water in wet years, thereby preserving groundwater for use in dry years when surface water must be dedicated to in-stream flows. The region's water purveyors have invested hundreds of millions of dollars in the design and construction of facilities to implement this plan. However, the plan relies on a safe and reliable groundwater supply.

The operation of important Federal water supply projects is integrally and inseparably related to the commitments made in the Water Forum Agreement. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Corps of

Engineers have constructed and operate numerous water supply and flood control facilities in the region, including Folsom Dam and Reservoir on the American River, and flood control and water supply facilities on the Sacramento River. These Federal facilities are essential components of a larger Federal water system, which supplies communities and a vital agricultural industry throughout California. The Federal facilities in the Sacramento area also provide important operational flexibility that allows the Federal government to meet water quality and fisheries objectives in the Bay-Delta region. The success of these Federal facilities in meeting these objectives depends on the Sacramento region's ability to use its groundwater resources.

The Sacramento region has been home to some of the nation's most important defense facilities, including the now-closed McClellan and Mather Air Force Bases, and Aerojet, which remains a major manufacturer of mission-critical aerospace and defense technology for the U.S. government. Unfortunately, the many productive years of service and technology development supported by the region's facilities contributed to substantial contamination of the groundwater basin. Although Aerojet and the former bases are engaged in soil and groundwater remediation, water supply wells remain threatened, and several public drinking water systems are at increased risk due to their proximity to contaminated groundwater. The contaminant plumes threaten the reliability of the groundwater basin, and may undermine the basis of the Water Forum. Thus, it is critical that there be better integration of the remedial actions and water resources management. Such coordination also has the potential to reduce the cost and duration of groundwater remediation.

Historically, the region's water purveyors have depended on regulatory agencies such as USEPA and state agencies to execute their responsibilities in dealing with remediation of contaminated sites. However, existing policies and regulations do not adequately consider regional water supply impacts associated with groundwater contamination, nor do they provide for the long lead times needed to plan for replacement water supply infrastructure. This hinders water managers' ability to ensure a safe and reliable long-term water supply. Moreover, these policies and regulations do not adequately facilitate opportunities for local water purveyors to partner with the responsible parties undertaking remediation to modify operations to more effectively meet the drinking water needs of the region, while maximizing the effectiveness of current and future contaminant clean-up.

Therefore, building on the approach of the Water Forum Agreement, the two groundwater authorities, in cooperation with member agencies and interested stakeholders, are embarking on a multi-year initiative to assess contamination in the region's groundwater basin and its cumulative impacts to water resources management. A key objective of the initiative will be to support integration of water supply planning and groundwater remediation. With the help of state funding, the region has undertaken the first steps of this initiative, which include 1) compiling available information on groundwater contamination, 2) developing a contaminant transport simulation for the existing regional groundwater model, and 3) evaluating plume migration under a range of potential future pumping scenarios. Federal participation in these first steps and funding commitment for subsequent actions will help to ensure public health and a sustainable water supply for the region.

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MERCURY MONITORING AND REMEDIATION

Requested Action:
We request that the Secretary of Army for Civil Works provide funding to inventory, assess, prioritize, and plan to mitigate mercury hazards from abandoned mine sites and related disturbance of geologic formations that resulted from past mining activities in the Sacramento River Watershed. A high priority should be to address the areas generating the largest amounts of mercury and methyl mercury, in particular the Cache Creek Watershed and Sierra watersheds including the Yuba, Bear, and American Rivers.

U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and other land management agencies are responsible for cleanup on thousands of acres of public land. State and federal agencies should develop plans for jointly assessing and addressing problems on public land, along with federal communication regarding priorities. Greatly increased funding for cleanup of public lands is crucial for these agencies to accomplish these tasks. An investment of $10 million could result in a basic review of contaminated sites, prioritization of these sites, and remediation of up to 20 contaminated abandoned mines, improving the health and environment for millions of people and many native species and habitats in California.

The Army Corps of Engineers Restoration of Abandoned Mines (RAMS) program uses federal funds and local matching funds to address non-coal mine problems. Use of funding under the RAMS program for mercury response is appropriate because:

- the mercury problem is a legacy issue where local, state, and federal interests benefited in the past from the mining activities and should share in the burden of response to the problem, and
- reduction of mercury hazards will support current federal responsibilities for endangered species, public health protection, water quality and environmental improvement, and USACE project responsibilities.

Background:
The widespread distribution of toxins associated with the Gold Rush, including mercury, arsenic, and lead, constitutes the oldest and longest-neglected environmental problem in the State of California. Mercury is a poison to humans and wildlife. It occurs in many different chemical states in the environment. The organic form, methyl mercury (MeHg), accumulates in the aquatic food web and can attain hazardous levels in some

species of fish eaten by humans and predators. Currently, there are fish consumption warnings issued by the State of California for a number of species of mercury laden fish in the Sacramento River watershed, including the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. People throughout the Nation are exposed to MeHg by consuming Pacific salmon, other ocean predators, and fish from the Delta.

Mercury levels in Sacramento Valley waterways are primarily the result of historic mining activities that occurred during the latter half of the 19th century and natural erosion from mercury-enriched watersheds. There are over 20,000 abandoned mines in California, 67% of which are on federally owned land. Water from 65% of these mine sites flows into the Sacramento River ecosystem. Water and sediment from these mine sites contain mercury in various forms. Through natural processes, including the warming of waterways, MeHg is produced from these mercury sources and incorporated into the tissues of many animals, where it can accumulate to poisonous levels, causing detrimental effects all the way up the food chain; including to humans.

Populations most at risk of this contamination are, in large part, California's most vulnerable populations, including subsistence fishermen and Native American communities. In addition, children and women of childbearing age are exceptionally vulnerable to the effects of accumulated mercury on the nervous system.

Control of mercury and MeHg is called for at the local, state, and federal levels. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requires the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to complete mercury Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for 69 California waterways listed as impaired for mercury under the Clean Water Act, including the South Fork American River, the Upper Bear River, and associated water retention facilities. Integrated Regional Water Management Plans and Watershed Plans from throughout the Sacramento River watershed also call for mercury control actions to diminish the exposure to hazardous levels of mercury. Mercury loading estimates for several sources in the Sacramento River watershed include: urban runoff (4 kg/yr); flow from mineral springs (18 kg/yr); runoff and erosion from mercury mine sites (3 kg/yr); and runoff and erosion from gold mine sites (61 kg/yr).

An example of current mercury-input management can be found at the mouth of Cache Creek. This water body contributes mercury from historic mercury mines, and at its mouth is a detention basin built by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and managed by the State of California. The basin traps sediments and mercury that would otherwise make their way into the Delta. USACE and the State of California will be required to manage the sediment trapping potential of the basin consistent with the Delta Mercury TDML. This type of management – remediation in the valley, rather than at the source of the problem, is characteristic throughout the state. Until management truly targets the source of the toxins, the Delta ecosystem and human health will suffer. Governor Schwarzenegger has identified federal funding for abandoned mine restoration as a critical priority for California and the nation, and the state Legislature supported federal funding to address water quality issues stemming from abandoned mines (HR 51, 2000).

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REGIONAL WATER RESOURCES INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

Requested Actions:
The Metro Chamber requests support for the following projects in the FY 2011 Federal appropriations and authorizations process for needed water and wastewater infrastructure projects; and seeks recognition of those areas that have emphasized regional planning by providing the ability of regional joint powers agencies to submit Federal grant applications on behalf of their members.

Background:
Water is an integral part of the economic vitality and quality of life of the Sacramento region. The region has over 2.2 million residents, a gross regional product of over $73 billion supporting more than one million jobs, and valuable riverine ecosystems of the Sacramento, Yuba, American and Cosumnes Rivers. Over the past several decades, the region has faced a growing number of challenges to providing a reliable water supply for the needs of people, the economy and the environment. Key challenges include demands from a growing population, surface and groundwater pollution, prolonged droughts, endangered species protection, new state and federal regulations, and aging water and wastewater infrastructure.

To address these growing challenges, local water, environmental, business and community leaders have formed partnerships to develop an integrated water management planning approach that recognizes the value of promoting and linking projects that produce multiple benefits such as environmental restoration, water supply enhancement and water quality protection. The historic Water Forum Agreement (WFA), negotiated and signed by over 40 entities in 2000, is an example of the region's commitment to collaborative planning. Hundreds of millions of dollars in local funding have been invested to date in water efficiency, water supply, water quality and environmental projects aligned with the WFA.

Building on the success of the Water Forum, more than 20 water providers and affiliated agencies created the Regional Water Authority (RWA), a joint powers agency, in 2001. RWA provides a regional forum for addressing issues, and is the lead entity in developing an integrated regional water management plan to address a variety of water related needs. RWA is one of the best examples of the integrated planning approach promoted by California water policy.

A key element of this successful planning strategy has been a durable federal/local partnership. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Corps of Engineers have constructed and operate numerous water supply and flood control facilities in the region, most notably Folsom Dam on the American River. Recent Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) legislation that authorized federal partnership funding for regional environmental and water resources projects has been invested within the integrated planning framework to produce a number of regional, state and federal benefits.

Additional federal funding is needed, as specified in the table below, to implement critical water and wastewater projects and continue this valuable federal/local partnership to meet the growing water supply, economic and environmental challenges in the Sacramento region. Individual projects are being advanced by the indicated agencies who are working closely with local Congressional representatives. ***However, to take full advantage of our regional efforts, all federal programs should recognize the eligibility of a joint powers agency such as the Regional Water Authority to receive and manage federal funds.*** The Sacramento Metro Chamber endorses these projects and policy considerations.

Authorization Requests

PROJECT	AGENCY	Proposed Authorizing Legislation/ Vehicle	Proposed Authorization Amount
Regional Meter Program - install meters to fully meter the region and implement technology upgrades at existing metered areas to ensure a sustainable water supply and enhance the American River habitat through improved flows.	RWA	WRDA 2010	$150 Million
Water Treatment Plant Repair - repair and replace dilapidated infrastructure at the Sacramento River Water Treatment Plant which provides treated surface water to the region and supports the regional conjunctive use program.	City of Sacramento	WRDA 2010	$150 Million
Folsom Dam Structural Improvements for Water Temperature Management - Rehabilitate the Temperature Control Device to facilitate temperature management by the US Bureau of Reclamation.	Sacramento Water Forum	WRDA 2010	$58 Million
Mills Station Crossing Water Line - construct a new water line to support Rancho Cordova Redevelopment Agency's mixed-use development adjacent to a Regional Transit Light-Rail Station.	City of Rancho Cordova	WRDA 2010	$1.5 Million
McClellan Business Park Service Area Conjunctive Use Project - Construct a 3 million gallon storage tank to provide additional water storage capacity resulting in increased reliability for water supply and fire protection. It would also enhance the ability for conjunctive use in the area.	Sacramento Suburban Water District	WRDA 2010	$5 Million

PROJECT	AGENCY	Proposed Authorizing Legislation/ Vehicle	Proposed Authorization Amount
Storm Water Drainage for Folsom Blvd - construct new storm water drainage infrastructure along Folsom Blvd to accompany development opportunities between Bradshaw Road and Zinfandel Drive.	City of Rancho Cordova	WRDA 2010	$3.5 Million
Drainage System and Infrastructure Evaluation and Repair Project - complete a full hydrology and engineering study to research the drainage system and replace necessary infrastructure as identified in the evaluation.	City of Auburn	WRDA 2010	$4 Million
Critical Facility Flood Risk Evaluation and Flood Recovery Plans - Perform a flood risk evaluation for sewage pump stations and other critical facilities and create a plan for recovery from a major flood. Identify necessary capital improvements.	SRCSD/SASD	WRDA	$1 Million
South County Agriculture and Habitat Lands Water Reuse Project, Phase 1 - Supply recycled water to the South Sacramento County agriculture and habitat lands.	SRCSD/SASD	Title XVI - Bureau of Reclamation	$56 Million
Outingdale Water Supply Project and Middle Fork Cosumnes River- Environmental restoration of the respective river corridors	El Dorado Irrigation District	WRDA 99 - Section 502	$4 Million

Appropriation Requests

PROJECT	AGENCY	Original Authorizing Legislation/ Vehicle	Authorized Amount	Appropriated to Date	2011 Appropriation Request
Aquifer Storage and Recovery Expansion Project - Installation of 2 wells to expand the City's ASR program.	City of Roseville				$4.5 Million
Waste to Energy Biomass Project - Construction of a receiving and processing station to accept restaurant fats and food waste to generate nearly 2 million kWh of renewable energy and reduce the amount of waste disposed of in local landfills.	City of Roseville				$9.75 Million
Folsom Lake Crossing - for grading restoration for flood control and repayment of a loan by the City to the Corps of Engineers	City of Folsom	2004 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill	$66 Million	$77.3 Million	$4.5 Million

PROJECT	AGENCY	Original Authorizing Legislation/ Vehicle	Authorized Amount	Appropriated to Date	2011 Appropriation Request
Sewer Rehab Project - Improve and enhance the safe transmission of sewer water to the regional treatment facilities y restoring a significant portion of the aged sewer system.	City of Folsom	STAG		$650,000	$650,000
Conjunctive Use Project – study regional conjunctive use opportunities for the feasibility/reliability of managing aquifers to recharge surplus surface water during wet year and extract stored water in dry years.	City of Folsom				$300,000
System Interconnection Project - develop additional water distribution system interconnections between the District and Placer County Water Agency to increase supply reliability when Folsom Reservoir levels are low.	San Juan Water District				$40 Million
Creek Protection Project - The project will reinforce and protect existing sewer pipes located near waterways in the Sacramento region.	SRCSD/SASD	CWA / STAG / EPA			$1.85 Million
Septic System Conversion and Avoidance Project - convert or connect problematic septic systems that have the potential to impact groundwater or surface water to the public sewer.	SRCSD/SASD	CWA / STAG / EPA			$ 3.3 Million
Solar Powered Wastewater Treatment Plant Pond Aerators - reduce the energy consumption and carbon footprint at the WWTP's solid storage basins by replace electric mixers with solar aerators/mixers in the sludge storage basin.	SRCSD/SASD	Energy and Water Bill, Department of Energy			$1.1 Million
Biogas Enhancement Project - Increase the production of methane gas for electricity production by introducing waste materials into the biogas digesters.	SRCSD/SASD	Energy and Water Bill, Department of Energy			$2.35 Million

PROJECT	AGENCY	Original Authorizing Legislation/ Vehicle	Authorized Amount	Appropriated to Date	2011 Appropriation Request
Combined Sewer Project - for engineering, construction to upgrade and replace failing portions of the City's sewer system.	City of Sacramento	STAG		$11 Million	$3 Million
Regional Wastewater Project - Consolidate 7 outdated and aging treatment facilities into a regional wastewater treatment plant.	Placer County City of Auburn	WRDA 2003	$35 Million	STAG - $5 Million WRDA - $2 Million	$10 Million
Delta Counties Coalition: technical analysis and planning associated with the following priority activities within the five Delta Counties: protecting surface and ground water resources; protecting and improving water quality; and habitat protection and ecosystem restoration initiatives, including habitat restoration on agricultural lands.	Yolo County				$2.5 Million